

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /059 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7871

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

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BRUSSELS FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FR NATO

SUBJECT: FRANCE AND NATO: CONTINUING PRESS ATTENTION  
TO REPORTS OF FRANCE JOINING NATO DIRECTORATE

REF: PARIS 36438; PARIS 36417

1. FRENCH MEDIA MORNING OF DECEMBER 10 CONTINUED TO  
GIVE SIGNIFICANT COVERAGE TO FALLOUT OF ASSOCIATED  
PRESS REPORT THAT UNNAMED SENIOR US OFFICIALS ARE PLAN-  
NING FOUR-POWER NATO DIRECTORATE INCLUDING FRANCE.

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OFFICIAL GOF DENIAL OF AP STORY (REFTEL B) WAS A LEAD-

ING ITEM WHICH WAS USED AS BASIS FOR VARIOUS COMMENTAR-  
IES ABOUT FRENCH POLICY TOWARD THE ALLIANCE MILITARY  
STRUCTURE.

2. BOTH COMMUNIST HUMANITE AND PRO-GOVERNMENT FIGARO  
CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT FIRST GOF COMMUNIQUE  
ON SUBJECT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY MODIFIED. FIRST COMMUNIQUE  
SAID THAT FRANCE CONDUCTS ABSOLUTELY NO RELATIONSHIP  
WITH ALLIANCE MILITARY STRUCTURES. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SUBSEQUENTLY REISSUED COMMUNIQUE WITHOUT THIS SENTENCE.  
FIGARO POINTED OUT THAT 1967 AILLERET-LEMNITZER AGREE-  
MENT, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY PRESIDENT DEGAULLE, PROVIDED  
FOR CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FRENCH AND NATO MILI-  
TARY COMMANDS. FIGARO GOES ON TO SAY THAT THIS IS AN  
OLD STORY WITH NO NEW ELEMENTS, AND THAT AMERICAN EMBAS-  
SY HAS ASSURED FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT AP REPORT HAD NO  
CONNECTION WITH US GOVERNMENT. HUMANITE SAID THAT LAST-  
MINUTE REVISION OF COMMUNIQUE CONSTITUTED PROOF THAT  
SOMETHING UNDERHANDED IS GOING ON BETWEEN FRANCE AND  
NATO.

3. QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS REPRINTED GOF DENIAL IN ITS  
ENTIRETY WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMENT: "THE RAPIDITY OF  
THE CLARIFICATION PROVES THAT MR. GISCARD D'ESTAING IS  
DETERMINED TO CUT SHORT ALL NEWS TENDING TO SHOW THAT  
FRANCE IS MOVING CLOSER TO NATO. BUT ISN'T IT THE  
AMBIGUOUS DEFENSE POLICY OF THE CHIEF OF STATE WHICH  
LEADS TO THIS TYPE OF INTERPRETATION?"

4. ALAIN DUHAMEL ON MORNING EUROPE ONE RADIO  
WELCOMED GOF DENIAL AS REAFFIRMATION OF FRENCH INDE-  
PENDENCE IN DEFENSE DECISION-MAKING. DUHAMEL ANALYZED  
AP REPORT AS TRIAL BALLOON FROM THE ENTOURAGE OF  
PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER. SUGGESTION OF FOUR-POWER DIREC-  
TORATE DESIGNED TO GIVE FRENCH REINTEGRATION CACHET OF  
GAULLISM TO MAKE IT PALLATABLE, WHICH DEMONSTRATES LACK  
OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION. DUHAMEL'S  
CONCLUSION IS THAT USA, AS A SUPERPOWER, IS UNABLE TO  
STOMACH IDEA OF FRENCH INDEPENDENCE IN DEFENSE MATTERS.

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5. OFFICIAL STATE DEPARTMENT DENIAL CAME TOO LATE FOR  
FRIDAY MORNING MEDIA, BUT WE ASSUME IT WILL BE PICKED  
UP IN AFTERNOON PAPERS.

6. COMMENT: RAPID ACTION BY FRENCH PRESIDENCY HAS CUT  
SHORT THE TYPE OF UNCONSTRUCTIVE SPECULATION ABOUT  
FRENCH-NATO RELATIONS WHICH WENT ON ENDLESSLY IN EARLY  
1976. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS ROUND OF REPORTS AND DENIALS

HAS DIMINISHED ATTENTION THAT SHOULD HAVE CONCENTRATED  
EXCLUSIVELY ON THE NATO MINISTERIAL. REPORTS OF SECRE-  
TARY'S FINAL APPEARANCE AS WELL AS PRESIDENT-ELECT  
CARTER'S MESSAGE TO MINISTERIAL RECEIVED GOOD PLAY, BUT  
THE COMPETITION OF THE AP STORY WAS NOT HELPFUL.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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